

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A continuous paper feeding apparatus for feeding a perforated continuous paper sheet to an image forming device, comprising:

a paper supply device configured to supply the continuous paper sheet;

a tractor provided at a location upstream of said image forming device to feed the continuous paper sheet supplied from said paper supply device while engaging perforations of the continuous paper sheet;

a braking device located between said paper supply device and said tractor and configured to apply a braking force to the continuous paper sheet;

a braking force setting device for variably setting the braking force;

a pair of rollers provided at a location downstream of said image forming device to feed the continuous paper sheet so that a feeding speed of the pair of rollers is slightly higher than that of the tractor; and

a controller to control the variable braking force applied by the braking device according to the setting made by said braking force setting device.

2. (Withdrawn) A continuous paper feeding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a sensor to detect a perforation enlarging.

3. (Withdrawn) A continuous paper feeding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said braking force setting device sets the braking force according to a detecting result of said sensor.

4. (Original) A continuous paper feeding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said braking force setting device sets the braking force according to a type of the continuous paper sheet.

5. (Original) A continuous paper feeding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said braking force setting device sets the braking force according to conditions of an installation environment.

6. (Currently amended) A continuous paper feeding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said braking device includes an evacuating device to apply a suction force to evacuate the continuous paper sheet ~~thicknesswise~~.

7. (Withdrawn) A continuous paper feeding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said braking device includes a pressurizing device to pressurize the continuous paper sheet thicknesswise.

8. (Previously presented) A printer for printing an image onto a perforated continuous paper sheet, comprising:

- a paper supply device configured to supply the continuous paper sheet;
- a tractor configured to feed the continuous paper sheet supplied from said paper supply device while engaging perforations of the continuous paper sheet;
- a printing device configured to print the image onto the continuous paper sheet at a location downstream of said tractor;
- a braking device located between said paper supply device and said tractor and configured to apply a braking force to the continuous paper sheet;
- a feeding device provided at a location downstream of said printing device to feed the continuous paper sheet so that a feeding speed of the feeding device is slightly higher than that of the tractor;
- a braking force setting device to set the braking force; and
- a controller to control the braking force applied by said braking device according to the setting made by said braking force setting device.

9. (Withdrawn) A printer according to claim 8, further comprising a sensor to detect a perforation enlarging.

10. (Withdrawn) A printer according to claim 9, wherein said braking force setting device sets the braking force according to a detecting result of said sensor.

11. (Original) A printer according to claim 8, wherein said braking force setting device sets the braking force according to a type of the continuous paper sheet.

12. (Original) A printer according to claim 8, wherein said braking force setting device sets the braking force according to conditions of an installation environment.

13. (Original) A printer according to claim 8, wherein said braking device includes an evacuating device for evacuating the continuous paper sheet thicknesswise.

14. (Withdrawn) A printer according to claim 8, wherein said braking device includes a pressurizing device to pressurize the continuous paper sheet thicknesswise.

15. (Original) A printer according to claim 8, further comprising a fixing device configured to fix the image onto the continuous paper sheet at a location downstream of said printing device.

16. (Original) A printer according to claim 15, wherein said fixing device applies tension to the continuous paper sheet.

17. (Previously presented) A continuous paper feeding apparatus used with an image forming device, comprising:

- a sheet supply device configured to supply a continuous printing paper sheet;

- a feeding device provided at a location upstream of said image forming device to feed the printing paper sheet supplied from said sheet supply device;

- a braking device located between said paper supply device and said feeding device and configured to apply a braking force to the printing paper sheet fed by said feeding device;

- a pair of rollers provided at a location downstream of said image forming device to feed the continuous paper sheet so that a feeding speed of the pair of rollers is slightly higher than that of the feeding device;

- a braking force setting device to set the braking force; and

- a controller to control the braking force applied by the braking device according to the setting made by said braking force setting device.

18. (Original) A continuous paper feeding apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said braking device is located upstream of said feeding device.

19. (Original) A continuous paper feeding apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising a printing device configured to print the image onto the continuous printing paper sheet fed by said feeding device at a location downstream of said feeding device.

20. (Original) A continuous paper feeding apparatus according to claim 17, said feeding device includes a tractor having feed pins for engaging perforations of the printing paper sheet.

21. (Withdrawn) A continuous paper feeding apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising a sensor for detecting a perforation enlarging.

22. (Withdrawn) A continuous paper feeding apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said braking force setting device sets the braking force according to a detecting result of said sensor.

23. (Original) A continuous paper feeding apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said braking force setting device sets the braking force according to a type of the printing paper sheet.

24. (Original) A continuous paper feeding apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said braking force setting device sets the braking force according to conditions of an installation environment.

25. (Currently amended) A continuous paper feeding apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said braking device includes an evacuating device to apply a suction force to ~~evacuate~~ the printing paper sheet ~~thicknesswise~~.

26. (Withdrawn) A continuous paper feeding apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said braking device includes a pressurizing device to pressurize the printing paper sheet thicknesswise.

27. (New) A continuous paper feeding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the braking force setting device sets the braking force based on a user-input submitted to the paper feeding apparatus.

28. (New) A continuous paper feeding apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the user-input includes an indication of properties of the continuous paper sheet.